

**FY 2001 Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results  
Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK 74078**

**Goal 1. An agricultural system that is highly competitive in the global economy**

**Overview**

Oklahoma agriculture competes in a marketplace that is both national and global. International markets have long been important for the state's forage and grain crops, and exports of the state's beef, pork, and poultry products. Applied and fundamental research programs in plant and animal agriculture and natural resources, including emphasis on value-added industry, will remain cornerstones of OAES's work. OAES programs are comprehensive, spanning fundamental inquiry, production, management, processing, marketing, and policy.

Research regarding the development of sensors and sensor-based technology to assess and apply crop nutrient needs has been highly successful. This research will revolutionize the way chemicals are applied to wheat, corn, bermudagrass and a variety of other crops to include turf applications for golf courses and create new business opportunities. Nine years of research has led to the development of a new machine, "GreenSeeker", that utilizes optical sensors and variable rate nozzles on a 60' boom mounted on a self-propelled sprayer. The "smart sprayer" gives the plants a physical, assesses their nutrient needs and delivers the proper fertilizer amounts in fractions of seconds as it moves across the field at 15 mph. It has the capability to assess and apply variable rates of fertilizer every 4 ft<sup>2</sup> instead of given amounts applied over entire fields.

Standard practice is to take approximately 20 soil samples from a field that would be managed the same, analyze for nutrients, and apply a uniform rate across the entire field. Using "GreenSeeker" technology is equivalent to applying fertilizer based on 10,000 individual soil samples per acre instead of a composite sample of 20 soil cores that might represent 40, 60 or more acres. The new 'smart sprayer' technology assesses soil spatial variability, computes total plant nitrogen and biomass, computes nutrients already taken up in the plant, computes soil nutrient supplying power for the remainder of the season, determines the plant response to additional nitrogen fertilizer, and applies the correct amount of nitrogen in each 4 ft<sup>2</sup> within the field. The machine can be operated day or night. Additionally, the machine can be used to spot spray weeds and map sensor measurements and actual application rates.

For the land-grant system and the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, this is truly meeting our mission of serving the citizens of Oklahoma, the nation, and globally. New technology has been developed through research, proof of concept has been provided, licensing agreements have been entered into, an emerging new business has been formed, jobs have been created, and we have prepared young professionals for careers that can make a difference in protecting the environment while maximizing the efficiency of inputs in crop production. Fertilizer input costs will be reduced without a reduction in yield and the environment will be protected because only the required amount of nutrients will be applied to each individual 4 ft<sup>2</sup> area in the field. Benefits to clientele could be as much as \$10 per acre in winter wheat production in the Southern Great Plains. More than 5 million acres of winter wheat are planted annually in Oklahoma. Assuming this technology is applied to half of the wheat acreage in Oklahoma, savings in fertilizer costs would exceed \$25 million annually. As the technology moves into the corn belt of the US even greater savings in fertilizer costs will occur. Included with this technology are benefits derived from maintaining clean water supplies by lessening the potential from NO<sub>3</sub> run-off into streams, lakes and the eventual movement to ground water supplies. The technology can be adapted globally to most cultivated crops where ever nitrogen is applied.

While total expenditures from federal formula funds (Hatch) for the precision agricultural effort were small, \$45,000, contributions were a result of input from 5.0 FTE's representing three major disciplines. State appropriated funds, industry, commodity groups and associations, and grants and contracts have contributed more than 100 fold to the federal funds directed toward precision agriculture.

Plant variety and germplasm development programs have been highly successful and have focused on agronomic crops and forages important to Oklahoma, surrounding states, and climatic zones in which new releases may be adapted. Results from formula funds have led to the development of a "new crop" with the OAES release of 'Intrada', which is the first hard white winter wheat variety to emerge from the new breeding program. This new variety was released eight years after initiation of the program. The emergence of white wheat production in Oklahoma has the potential to develop new markets both regionally and internationally and provide an economic boost to selected producers and grain marketers that choose to handle it as a special crop.

Hard red winter wheat germplasm releases with disease and insect resistance complement the variety development program for wheat, both red and white. New hard red winter wheat varieties, 'Ok101' and 'Ok102' provide producers with superior traits and characteristics compared to currently grown varieties.

'Midland 99', a forage type bermudagrass, has gained statewide and regional acceptance and is now considered the premier variety for new establishment of bermudagrass pastures in the southern region. 'Patriot', a new turf type bermudagrass recently released has gained national and international recognition for its superior turf quality and characteristics. Alfalfa germplasm releases also have enhanced the genetic

diversity available for breeding programs. A new peanut variety, 'Jupiter', which is a Virginia type was released and offers many desirable characteristics over existing varieties currently planted.

The outcomes of the variety and germplasm development programs have been significant in all agronomic crops produced in the state and have greatly benefited the clientele we serve and stakeholders that provided input to the process. The OAES is extremely pleased with the accomplishments in the plant variety and germplasm development programs and expects continued success in the future. It is imperative that plant variety and germplasm development programs progress using conventional and biologically enhanced techniques as rapidly as possible to meet the growing needs of the clientele we serve.

Total federal formula fund expenditures (Hatch) for this effort during the reporting period were \$167,061 and the contributions were a result of the input from 4.6 FTE's. State appropriated funds, industry, commodity groups and associations, and grants and contracts have contributed more than 15 fold to the federal effort in the total plant variety and germplasm development program.

### **Key Theme – Precision Agriculture**

- a. Brief description – Research leading to a better understanding of nutrient variability in soils has prompted the development of new sensor-based technology to satisfy nutrient needs of plants. Previous solutions have been the use of composite soil cores to represent the nutrient status of fields. The new technology identifies the nutrient status of plants in every 4-ft<sup>2</sup> area and adjusts fertilizer rates accordingly. A new machine, 'GreenSeeker', has been developed that can operate day or night at up to 15 mph to apply fertilizer based on crop needs in each small 4 ft<sup>2</sup> area. Efficiency of applied fertilizer applications has been improved and risks to the environment have been minimized.
- b. Impact – New sensor-based technology to assess fertilizer needs of crops has been developed and mounted on a commercial machine with a 60' boom. Adoption of this new technology will result in savings of approximately \$10 per acre in winter wheat production systems. If half of the acreage in Oklahoma utilizes this technology, savings in input costs would exceed \$25 million dollars for the more than 5 million acres of wheat planted annually. The technology can be adapted for multiple crops such as corn, forages, spinach, turf, or where ever the need for nitrogen fertilization exists. Results of the new technology will be improved efficiency of nitrogen fertilization while maintaining high quality yields. The potential of run-off and/or leaching of NO<sub>3</sub> into groundwater and drinking water supplies will be reduced thus protecting the environment.

- c. Source of Funds – Hatch Act; Special Research Grants; State Appropriated Funds, Commodity Groups – Oklahoma Wheat Commission, Oklahoma Wheat Research Foundation, Oklahoma Fertilizer Advisory Board; Private Foundations.
- d. Scope of Impact – Multi-state Research with:  
NE and VA

### **Stakeholder Input Process**

The OAES receives stakeholder input from numerous sources. Research scientists, extension personnel, and administrators meet quarterly with crop commodity groups, biannually with the Fertilizer Advisory Board, and more frequently throughout the year with farmer/producer groups to seek their input for efficiency of fertilizer application needs.

The Fertilizer Advisory Board, Oklahoma Wheat Commission, Oklahoma Wheat Research Foundation, and farmers and producers regularly provide input regarding the desirable characteristics of the new sensor-based ‘GreenSeeker’ machine. Their input and experiences were recorded and became instrumental in developing boom height control and trouble shooting mechanisms for the sensor-based machine.

### **Program Review Process**

There have been no significant changes in program review.

### **Evaluation of the Success of Multi and Joint Activities**

The planned sensor-based development program addressed the critical issues of strategic importance, including those identified by the stakeholders.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the sensor-based precision agricultural program has been greatly enhanced due to the multidisciplinary activities of agricultural engineers, agronomists, soil scientists, and turf grass research and extension scientists. This is truly a multidisciplinary effort and has been highly successful in identifying a need that benefits the farmer and as well as being friendly to the environment. Research has been conducted to solve a problem; proof of concept under full-scale field conditions has been provided; undergraduate and graduate students have been trained in new technology; and the basis for development of new businesses has been provided that will bring new jobs into the state of Oklahoma. This technology will eventually encompass the Great Plains; the Corn Belt; golf courses throughout world; and wherever nitrogen is applied globally to meet crop requirements. The OAES is extremely pleased with the outcome and impacts of this multi and joint activity program. OAES utilizes this program as a perfect example of meeting the expectations of programs conducted under the land-grant mission.

## **Integrated Research and Extension Activities**

More than 50 field experiments are established annually on farmer cooperators fields to conduct soil fertility research and to provide a basis for development of fertilizer recommendations for crops and forages grown in Oklahoma. Many of these same plots are utilized in refining and the development of the new sensor-based technology. This research information is collected, analyzed, and interpreted and extension publications and media information outlets are identified. In conjunction, farmer and commodity group meetings are scheduled to present the latest information regarding traditional fertilizer applications and the new sensor-based technology that has been developed.

## **Key Theme – Plant Germplasm**

- a. Brief description - Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station researchers are developing new improved plant varieties and germplasms that are adapted to abiotic and biotic stresses that are encountered under Oklahoma climatic and environmental conditions, as well as those existing in surrounding states. Plant germplasms have been gathered from around the world to enhance genetic diversity in the wheat, soybean, peanut, forage, turfgrass, and alfalfa breeding programs. Molecular, physiological, and morphological traits are being identified in developing germplasm of wheat, soybean, peanut, forage, turfgrass, and alfalfa and used in the selection criteria to enhance disease and insect resistance, seedling vigor, cold hardiness, earliness, tolerance to environmental stress, and yield. Cultivar improvement for the varying species encompasses several scientific disciplines in the OAES; where research initiatives are identified and implemented by a group of multidiscipline scientists known as improvement teams. The team approach provides a natural fit to research areas that requires expertise beyond what plant breeders' use in hybridization and selection of superior progeny.
- b. Impact – The OAES has had a long history of cultivar and germplasm development of numerous agronomic and horticultural commodity crops to meet state, regional, national, and international needs. During this reporting period, the OAES released its first hard white winter wheat variety, 'Intrada' that has excellent international market opportunities. This new release represents a "new crop" opportunity for wheat producers in western and panhandle counties of Oklahoma and the western high plains of Texas and Kansas. White wheat must be kept identity preserved throughout the entire production and marketing cycle to prevent contamination of the traditionally grown hard red winter wheat in the area. Consequently, new production and marketing opportunities for farmers and grain elevators have been provided with the release of the "new crop". Grain yield of this cultivar is superior to other white wheat varieties that are currently available from other state programs and similar to most hard red winter wheat varieties currently in production. Maturity and dormancy is intermediate while reaction to wheat soil borne mosaic is mixed. It is moderately susceptible to tan

spot and leaf rust during the early stages of growth but shows an intermediate reaction in adult plants. Tolerance to soil acidity is moderate, plant height is medium-short, kernel hardness is acceptable, grain protein is adequate, and kernel size is uniform. The cultivar has a medium-short mixing time, good mixing tolerance, and excellent loaf volume and texture. OAES, Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, and USDA-ARS developed this variety cooperatively. It was jointly released by OAES and USDA-ARS. Additionally during this reporting period, a new improved forage-type bermudagrass, 'Midland-99'; a new seeded turf bermudagrass, OKS95-1; 'Patriot', a new turf type bermudagrass; a Virginia peanut, 'Jupiter'; two new peanut varieties jointly released with Texas A&M and ARS, OLin and Tamrun OL01; new hard red winter wheat varieties, 'Ok101' and 'Ok102'; six new wheat germplasm lines that carry leaf rust and soil borne mosaic resistance designated as OAES-1 through OAES-6; and five new alfalfa germplasms with plant breeder designations have been released.

- c. Source of Federal Funds – Hatch
- d. Scope of Impact – Multi-state Research with:

AK, TX, KS, CO, NE, NM, GA, FL, VA

### **Program Review Process**

There have been no significant changes in program review.

### **Evaluation of the Success of Multi and Joint Activities**

The planned variety and germplasm development programs addressed the critical issues of strategic importance, including those identified by the stakeholders. The needs of the under-served and under-represented populations were included within the critical issues of strategic importance. Planned variety and germplasm development programs described the expected outcomes and impacts and resulted in improved program effectiveness and/or efficiency.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the plant variety and germplasm development program has been greatly enhanced due to multidisciplinary activities of plant breeding, molecular genetics, soil and crop specialists, entomology, plant pathology, plant physiology, and biochemistry within the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Much of the progress can be attributed to joint research and extension activities and multistate cooperative efforts. Scientists in other states have evaluated OAES plant materials considered for variety release. This information has been extremely helpful in determining the climatic zone of adaptation of the varying species that are forthcoming in variety and germplasm release programs.

The Southwest Wheat Research and Extension Center is a classic example of multi-state/multi-institutional/multi-agency/multi-disciplinary activities that consists of scientists from Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas as well as individuals representing commercial seed companies and independent foundations. This group represents Land-grant Universities, USDA/ARS, industrial research scientists, independent foundation agronomists and State Cooperative Extension personnel that are working together toward a common goal of variety and germplasm improvement of wheat. Other similar groups represent improvement in variety and germplasm development of soybean, peanut, forage and turf bermudagrasses, and alfalfa. The OAES is extremely pleased with outcomes and impacts of our multi and joint activity programs.

### **Integrated Research and Extension Activities**

Name of Planned Program/Activity: Promotion of the Use of Improved Alfalfa Varieties

Brief Progress Report: As part of the alfalfa breeding program, an extensive variety testing program is conducted throughout the state. Test results are published on the Internet at [www.agr.okstate.edu/alfalfa/var-test/alf-var.html](http://www.agr.okstate.edu/alfalfa/var-test/alf-var.html). The best varieties for Oklahoma in these tests are promoted in articles in the Oklahoma Alfalfa Hay & Seed Association NEWS and in oral presentations organized by County Extension Educators. This activity is responsible for the high level of acceptance of improved alfalfa varieties in the state.

Name of Planned Program/Activity: Promotion of Forage Legumes in Oklahoma Pastures

Brief Progress Report: As part of our pasture management and legume breeding programs, we plant trials and demonstrations of forage legumes adapted to Oklahoma. The best species are promoted as part of tours and demonstrations at research stations and in commercial pastures. The plantings also serve as a source of material for images on our Oklahoma Forages web page at [www.agr.okstate.edu/forage/](http://www.agr.okstate.edu/forage/). This activity assists County Extension Educators and Area Extension Specialists promote improved pasture management.

Name of Planned Program/Activity: Integrated Management of Peanut Diseases

Brief Progress Report: Field research trials were completed in 2000 that management of Sclerotinia blight of peanut. Biological, chemical, and cultural management strategies were evaluated. The cultivars Tamspan 90, Tamrun 98, and Tamrun 96 have been identified as moderately resistant to Sclerotinia blight. Despite the improved performance of these varieties in infested fields, yields of all varieties were increased by the experimental fungicide fluazinam. Therefore, the effects of deploying the resistant cultivars and using an effective fungicide are additive. Results were transferred to clientele through extension publications, popular articles, and mass media. Greater than 90% of the peanut acreage infested with Sclerotinia blight was planted with a moderately resistant variety in 2000. In addition, data from the applied research was

used to support an emergency exemption request for use of fluazinam on peanuts was approved for the first time 2000.

### **Stakeholder Input Process**

The OAES receives stakeholder input for plant breeding and germplasm development programs from numerous sources. Research scientists, extension personnel, and administrators meet quarterly with representatives from crop commodity groups and more frequently in scheduled meetings with producers to seek their input regarding varietal needs and other management inputs.

The Oklahoma Wheat Commission, Oklahoma Wheat Research Foundation, Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association, Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association, Oklahoma Seedmen's Association, and Oklahoma Grain & Stocker Producers' Association regularly provide input regarding desirable characteristics to include in both the hard white winter wheat and hard red winter wheat breeding programs.

Members of the Oklahoma Soybean Board, Oklahoma Soybean Growers Association, Oklahoma Peanut Commission, and Oklahoma Peanut Growers Association are providing stakeholder input for the soybean and peanut breeding programs. The Oklahoma Alfalfa Hay & Seed Association provides input for the alfalfa-breeding program and for forages. Representatives from the Oklahoma Golf Course Superintendents Associations and the U.S. Golf Association provide input for the development of turf bermudagrasses.

A Dean's Advisory Group for the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources that consists of 40 key agricultural leaders throughout the state meets biannually with scientists and administrators and discusses needs and provide suggestions for improvement of cultivars that are adapted to the state.

Extension Specialists, Area Agronomists, and County Educators meet with area producers and commodity groups and relay information to OAES researchers regarding desirable characteristics and phenotypic traits to be included for the varieties of the wheat, soybean, peanut, alfalfa, and forage and turf bermudagrasses developed.

## **Goal 2. A safe and secure food and fiber system**

### **Overview**

Our nation's food supply is considered to be among the safest in the world. However it is vulnerable to attacks with pathogen or toxic chemical at any one of several points between the farm/ranch and the consumer. The microorganisms that cause smallpox, anthrax, bubonic plague, Ebola, tularemia, and botulism are most often considered as potential threats. Crop species are vulnerable to attack by various fungi, viruses, and nematodes. Because of the often remote and rural locations of our farms and ranches,

plant and animal diseases may go undetected for an extended period of time. For example, the occurrence of karnal bunt in U.S. wheat did little actual damage to the wheat crop but it disrupted national and international trade, incited consumer alarm and substantially undermined the financial well being of local rural communities. Domestic pathogens of particular concern to U.S. crops include the fungi that cause wheat stem rust, wheat leaf rust, head blight (scab) of grains, karnal bunt, and rice blast. The plum pox virus was not known to occur in the U.S. until recently. However, it has caused significant losses and was quarantined only with great difficulty.

Livestock production is likewise extremely vulnerable due to the concentration of animals into small areas, which may also be geographically remote in rural parts of the country. Examples of areas with major livestock concentrations would include western Oklahoma (swine), eastern Oklahoma and Arkansas (poultry), and the south-central Great Plains, including parts of Texas, Kansas, and all of Oklahoma (cattle). Foot and Mouth Disease, African swine fever, hog cholera, rinderpest, lumpy skin disease and related pox diseases, exotic bluetongue viruses and related orbiviruses, pathogenic avian influenza viruses, and pathogenic Newcastle disease viruses are animal pathogens that devastate production. Zoonotic diseases that attack livestock and poultry may also cause human disease outbreaks. The highest threats among these are Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis and related equine encephalitides, Rift Valley fever, avian influenza, Japanese encephalitis and Nipah, Hendra and related viruses.

Food borne pathogens such as *Salmonella*, enteropathogenic *Escherichia coli*, *Listeria*, and *Campylobacter* can cause wide spread illness, tremendous disruption in daily lives, and significant economic loss as well as affect the health of thousands of consumers over a large geographical area if the outbreak is involved in large food processing plants.

A world-class program that addresses emerging areas in safe and secure food supplies has been developed by building a team of scientists that have expertise in plant pathology, food microbiology, veterinary medicine, food engineering, biochemistry and molecular biology, plant and soil sciences, and plant breeding. The interdisciplinary research program developed focuses on developing and utilizing state-of-the-art detection methods as well as newly developed molecular probe technology for targeted microbial pathogens and/or toxins to determine critical points in the food chain (i.e. production, harvest, processing, and/or distribution) in which surveillance should be maintained.

Because of potential harm to human health in food borne outbreaks, there is a zero tolerance for *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods. D-values, which are the times at a particular temperature to obtain a 10 fold reduction in cell counts, for the various products ranged from 4.0 – 9.3 seconds at 160 F, 12.5 – 24.4 seconds at 155 F, 29.6 – 73.5 seconds at 150 F, and 67.6 – 416.7 seconds at 145 F. It was previously believed that spontaneous kill of bacteria occurred once temperatures reached 160 F. Results indicate that cooking regimens used by Oklahoma processors of fully cooked sausage links and meatballs are sufficient to render a high reduction of incidental

Listeria monocytogenes. Oklahoma Cooperative Extension has conducted the “Oklahoma FoodSafe Program” to increase the safety of the food supply in our state. By increasing awareness and knowledge of safe food behavior and choices and by teaching them to take responsibility for the safety of their food has reduced their risk of food borne illness.

Both food manufacturers and individual clientele have been benefited from food safety research, which has lessened risk of illness associated with ready-to-eat foods and home processed foods. Although this work is continuing and much progress has been made in our understanding of providing safe and secure food supplies, much more work must be accomplished. We are pleased with the outcome of our program and they have made great strides in helping both manufactures and individual clientele in the general area of food safety.

Approximately 5 FTE's are working in this general area and sources of funds include Hatch, state appropriated funds, and grants and contracts from private industry. Total federal formula expenditures (Hatch) for this effort during the reporting period were \$21,179. State appropriated funds; industry, commodity groups and associations; and grants and contracts have contributed more than 20 fold in the total safe and secure food and fiber program.

#### **Key Theme – Food handling**

- a. Brief description – D-values, which are cooking times at various temperatures to reduce pathogen levels 10 fold, have been determined for processed meats. Results indicated that time of cooking to reduce pathogen level vary greatly with temperature of cooking for poultry, beef, and pork. D-Values range from 4.0 – 9.3 seconds at 160 F, 12.5- 25.4 seconds at 155 F, 29.6 – 73.5 seconds at 150 F, and 67.6 – 416.7 seconds at 145 F. Although microbial reduction is most rapid at 160 F, bacteria are not killed instantaneously at that temperature and complete elimination is a time-and-population dependent phenomenon.
- b. Impact – These temperature profiles with length of cooking time provide information to insure that processed meats are cooked adequately with minimum risk of illness. The data are applicable to both manufacturers and individual clientele. This information has been provided in workshops to manufacturers and through extension programs throughout the state. The result has been fewer cases of food borne illness.
- c. Source of funding – Hatch and state appropriated funds
- d. Scope of impact – Multistate integrated research and extension with:  
ME

## **Stakeholder Input Process**

Input for research is solicited from the Food and Agricultural Research and Technology Advisor Board and from individuals participating in workshops and extension programs throughout the state. The advisory board consists of individual producers and representative members of manufactures in the food industry. Their ideas for research and needs of the industry as well as individuals are recorded, assessed, and priorities for research are set. It is the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station's opinion that the advisory sessions with their input and the input received from the varying workshops and extension programs are very helpful in refocusing or reaffirming priorities and identifying emerging issues.

## **Program Review Process**

There have been no significant changes in program review.

## **Evaluation of the Success of Multi and Joint-Activities**

The food safety program addresses the critical issues of strategic importance, including those identified by the stakeholders. The effectiveness and efficiency of the food safety program has been greatly enhanced by the multidisciplinary approach. Faculty that have expertise in plant pathology, food microbiology, veterinary medicine, food engineering, biochemistry and molecular biology, plant and soil sciences, and plant breeding are working together in many multidisciplinary activities. Research has benefited both manufacturers and individual clientele lessening the risk of food borne illness to include the under-served and under- represented populations of the state and U.S.

## **Integrated Research and Extension Activities**

The research conducted has been an integral part of the information provided in the Oklahoma Food Safe Program, which works primarily with consumers to increase their safety of the food supply in our state. By increasing their awareness and knowledge of safe food behavior and choices and by teaching them to take responsibility for the safety of their food they reduce their risk of food borne illness. In-service training to county educators, leader training for Oklahoma Family & Community Educators, and public service announcements, has increased the awareness of food safety issues.

## **Goal 4. Greater harmony between agriculture and the environment**

### **Overview**

Oklahomans want to provide a reasonable measure of security for future generations while continuing to use natural resources to meet their needs. The range of environmental concerns of the public includes real or perceived threats to air, water and

soil quality as well as to wildlife and ecosystem health. The goals of protecting and managing natural resources, expanding and promoting strategies for integrating pest management in rural and urban environments, and achieving effective and efficient waste management systems, particularly from intensive animal production systems, provide opportunities for OAES research in the area of agriculture and the environment. There are also opportunities for improved land stewardship that integrates wildlife and natural resource management with agricultural production.

The Oklahoma Panhandle is the most productive agricultural region in the state and Texas County is the heart of the most highly concentrated cattle and swine feeding area in the US with over 1.8 million head. The state of Oklahoma has 2.3 million head of hogs, which has increased 1.0 million head in the last five years. Significant factors causing the increase are: available land for animal production facilities, grain production, land available for manure applications, and a large relatively new processing facility. It is essential that economical, sustainable, and environmentally prudent waste management principles and practices be developed for the rapidly expanding animal industry in this semiarid region. The semiarid agroecosystem is unique, which renders much of the management information gained from more humid environments inapplicable.

Current needs of the animal industry related to waste management dictate that balanced research program be pursued which searches for both and short and long-term solutions to problems. Faculty from Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, Plant and Soil Sciences, Animal Science, and Agricultural Economics have joined together to form a waste management team to identify, investigate and improve efficiency of swine operations and manure applications to soil/crop systems. This report concentrates on animal waste produced by swine.

Odor has been identified as a number one priority for research by the animal industry. Therefore current research work is focused on evaluation of sources of odor, odor abatement, and odor dispersion in the atmosphere. A computer model has been developed that utilizes real-time climatic data that can be derived from 110 locations within the state with the objective of predicting the probability of odor becoming a problem to neighbors surrounding confined animal operations. This model provides the best possible information regarding existing climatic conditions and their potential affect on dispersion and the probability of creating a nuisance during effluent application. Concurrently, research has been conducted to determine ideal operating conditions and biota for lagoon and how to best utilize the 3 million gallons of swine lagoon effluent produced each year as a fertilizer without affecting existing water supplies and damaging the environment. Soil and crop management practices have been developed that will fully utilize the nutrients in the effluent and minimize odor emission into the atmosphere. Research with sprinkler irrigation systems has shown that more than 50% of the ammonia-N may be lost during application. Timing and application rates have been adjusted to minimize these losses. Research with subsurface irrigation systems will be initiated in the coming year to provide further information regarding improving the efficiency of effluent applications in cropping systems.

Benefits of the research thus far have provided information leading to the proper timing, application method, and prudent use of swine effluent in cropping systems while minimizing odor dispersion and nuisance complaints as well as minimizing risks of damaging water supplies and the environment. Information generated has been disseminated to clientele attending waste management conferences held annually and via conventional publication outlets. This information has been invaluable in assisting producer/operations to remain in compliance of legislative man-dates as well as minimizing risks to the environment.

Total federal formula expenditures (Hatch) for this effort during the reporting period were \$22,296 and the contributions were the result of input from approximately 4.0 FTE's. Special federal initiatives, state appropriated funds, and grants and contracts have contributed to more than 30 fold to the federal effort in animal waste management program.

### **Key Theme – Animal Waste Management**

- a. Brief description – Animal waste management research with emphasis on confined swine operations has been initiated in the semiarid region of the Panhandle. Rainfall is less, wind velocity and duration is greater, and summer temperatures are higher than in most other confined swine producing areas in the US. Thus, information generated in the more humid areas is not always applicable to this region. Research has developed a computer model to assist in minimizing the risks of creating odor nuisance problems during effluent applications. Ammonia-N losses from effluent during sprinkler irrigation applications have been determined and management practices have been adjusted. Best management practices for effluent application to soil/crop systems have been developed and appropriate rates of effluent to satisfy nutrient needs of the crops grown in the area have been identified. In the future additional research will be initiated to determine the feasibility of utilizing subsurface irrigation systems to apply effluent in existing cropping systems in the region.
- b. Impact – Information gained has been disseminated to producer/operators via waste management conferences and conventional publication outlets. Most producers in the area have been anxious to adopt the best management practices developed in order to minimize odor nuisance complaints and reduce risks to the environment. The best management practices developed also helps them remain in compliance with legislative man-dates.
- c. Source of Funds – Hatch Act, Special Research Grants, State Appropriated Funds, Oklahoma Pork Council, Private Grants
- d. Scope of Impact – Multi State Research with:

NC, IA, MO

### **Stakeholder Input Process**

Input for the research program comes from a variety of sources to include farmers and producers in the area as well as concerned citizens in the region. Opportunity is provided to gather information at field tours, during conferences, and at farmer/producer meetings through out the region. Other organizations such as the Oklahoma Pork Council, the advisory board of the Oklahoma Panhandle Research and Education Center, the Guymon Chamber of Commerce, Panhandle Development of Oklahoma, irrigation organizations, commercial pork producers and processors, and agricultural support groups provide valuable input toward establishing research objectives.

### **Program Review Process**

There have been no significant changes in program review.

### **Evaluation of the Success of Multi and Joint Activities**

The planned research program has addressed critical issues regarding animal waste management issues in the panhandle region that have been identified by the stakeholders and concerned citizens in the region. Expected outcomes and impacts of the research program have been described. Research is continuing and information will be disseminated as it becomes available. The overall efficiency of animal waste management has been improved as a result of the on-going research activities.

### **Integrated Research and Extension Activities**

Field and laboratory experiments and program materials have been developed jointly with research and extension faculty. Field tours, waste management conferences, fact sheets and other publications have been utilized to disseminate both research and extension information regarding best management practices.





